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February 24, 2012

The Honorable Mark Leno  
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 553  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Leno:

Pursuant to Section 66015.10 of the Education Code, enclosed is the University of California's annual report to the Legislature on the *Entry Level Writing Requirement, Fall 2011*.

If you have any questions regarding this report, Associate Vice President Debora Obley would be pleased to speak with you. She can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9112, or by e-mail at [Debora.Obley@ucop.edu](mailto:Debora.Obley@ucop.edu).

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mark G. Yudof  
President

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Jody Martin, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
Ms. Tina McGree, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Ms. Amy Leach, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Mr. Jim Lasky, Legislative Counsel Bureau  
Mr. Gregory Schmidt, Secretary of the Senate  
Mr. Dotson Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Ms. Ana J. Matosantos, Director of Finance  
Ms. Sara Swan, Department of Finance  
Provost and Executive Vice President Lawrence Pitts  
Executive Vice President Nathan Brostrom  
Chief Financial Officer Peter Taylor  
Senior Vice President Dan Dooley  
Vice President Patrick Lenz  
Vice President Judy Sakaki  
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez  
Associate Vice President Debora Obley  
Executive Director Jenny Kao

**Entry Level Writing Requirement, Fall 2011**

February 2012

Legislative Report



UNIVERSITY *of* CALIFORNIA

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

### Entry Level Writing Requirement, Fall 2011

The following report is forwarded in compliance with Section 66015.10 of the Education Code, which states:

The University of California is requested to annually notify the governing board of each high school of both of the following:

- (1) The number of graduates who enrolled in the university in the previous year and the number of graduates who were required to take the entry level writing requirement.
  - (2) The comparable numbers of all California high school graduates who enrolled in the university.
- (b) The University of California is requested to provide an annual summary of the information specified in subdivision (a) to the Department of Finance and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.

This document is the annual report responding to this legislative request.

#### Background

The University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement (formerly known as the Subject A requirement) is a reading and writing proficiency requirement that is intended to assure that entering level freshman students have the writing skills necessary to succeed in lower-division University-level courses. UC students must be able to understand and to respond adequately to written material typical of reading assignments in freshman courses, and this ability must be demonstrated in student writing that communicates effectively to University faculty.

The Academic Senate Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) oversees the University's Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR). This requirement may be satisfied by successfully completing a course or program of study in English composition during the first year of enrollment at UC. In addition, prior to enrollment at the University of California, a student may satisfy the ELWR by attaining a score approved by the Committee on one of the following examinations:

1. the University of California Analytical Writing Placement Exam [formerly known as the Subject A Examination],
2. the SAT Reasoning Test in Writing,
3. the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Examination,
4. the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Examination, or
5. the International Baccalaureate Higher Level Examination in English (Language A only).

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An additional option for completing the writing requirement prior to enrollment at the University is the successful completion of a transferable college-level course in English composition of 3 semester or 4 quarter units.

Each May, the University offers its Analytical Writing Placement (AWPE) examination to incoming freshman who have not satisfied the English Language Writing Requirement by that date. The AWPE defines a basic level of proficiency in reading and writing for incoming students and sets a baseline of expectations that extends across all UC campuses. As the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) observed at its April 2002 meeting, “it is very important to have a single University of California standard that clearly communicates to students, parents, teachers, and schools the academic reading and writing abilities expected of entering freshmen.”

This report summarizes the outcomes of the Entry Level Writing Requirement for freshman students who entered the University for the Fall 2011 term and provides Fall 2010 data as a point of comparison (see attached tables).

### Information to Schools

The University annually notifies each California high school, county and district superintendent that comprehensive ELWR performance results are available on the AWPE Result web site (at <http://www.ucop.edu/cgi-bin/elwr/results.pl>). These results may be useful to guide high school curriculum development that could improve the academic preparation of students.

The AWPE web site (at <http://www.ucop.edu/elwr/>) contains previously administered examinations, the scoring guide, and annotated sample student essays with reader comments exemplifying each scoring level. These resources are intended to help clarify the ELWR standard of competence.

### Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) Data on Entering Freshmen

The attached tables display ELWR data for Fall 2010 and 2011 entering freshmen.

Of the 32,218 freshman students who entered the University for the Fall 2011 term, 73.0 percent (23,530) met the Entry Level Writing Requirement prior to Fall enrollment. This percent is down slightly from the Fall 2010 outcome of 73.1 percent (23,335) for newly enrolling students. The percent of Fall 2011 entrants who fulfilled the ELWR includes both students who met the requirement through other means prior to entry – 53.6 percent (17,257) – and students who successfully passed the Analytical Writing Placement Examination (6,273, or 19.5 percent).

The proportion of Fall 2011 students who met the ELWR through other means prior to enrollment increased. The total number/percent of students who did not fulfill the requirement prior to Fall term enrollment also increased and is attributable to the smaller proportion of entering students who fulfilled the requirement via the Analytical Writing Placement Examination (AWPE) in 2011 (19.5 percent) compared to the 2010 cohort (21.5 percent). The AWPE pass rate for Fall 2011 entrants was 43.7 percent, compared to 44.9 percent for 2010 test-takers. As a result, slightly more Fall 2011 freshmen – 27.0 percent, or 8,688 students – will be

required to meet the ELWR during their first year of enrollment at the University than was the case for Fall 2010 entrants (26.9 percent, or 8,591 students).

The percentage of entering students who fulfilled the ELWR requirement prior to enrollment differs by UC eligibility status. In Fall 2010, 73.5 percent (23,226) of regularly admitted freshman students satisfied the ELWR prior to entry, compared to 31.4 percent (109) for students admitted by exception. For Fall 2011, the completion rate increased slightly for regularly eligible students (73.6 percent, 23,353), and the completion rate for students admitted by exception increased over the previous year, 35.8 percent (177 students).

The percentage of all Fall students who fulfilled the ELWR requirement prior to enrollment varies by campus. In 2011 this ranged from a high of 90.2 percent at Berkeley compared to 37.7 percent at UC Merced. This pattern closely mirrors individual campus admission applicant pools and selectivity rates, and is consistent across both years.

The University routinely monitors new student progress toward satisfaction of its Entry Level Writing Requirement and reports relevant statistics.

**Contact information:**

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**Table 1: Fulfillment of Entry-Level Writing Requirement (Subject A) for New Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 2010**

Campus	Admitted*	Enrolled	Met Requirement		Took UC Exam	Passed UC Exam		Met Requirement Through Other Means		Did Not Meet Requirement		
			n	%		n	%	n	%	n	%	
<b>REGULAR (ELIGIBLE ADMIT)</b>												
Berkeley	7,396	3,019	2,764	91.6	615	335	11.1	2,429	80.5	255	8.4	
Davis	18,417	4,351	3,095	71.1	2,131	1,048	24.1	2,047	47	1,256	28.9	
Irvine	19,259	4,258	3,130	73.5	2,264	1,104	25.9	2,026	47.6	1,128	26.5	
Los Angeles	9,968	3,974	3,549	89.3	1,033	576	14.5	2,973	74.8	425	10.7	
Merced	19,720	1,273	459		937	277	21.8	182	14.3	814	63.9	
Riverside	19,611	4,418	2,267	51.3	3,387	1,159	26.2	1,108	25.1	2,151	48.7	
San Diego	15,616	3,704	3,367	90.9	1,368	679	18.3	2,688	72.6	337	9.1	
Santa Barbara	19,065	3,482	2,658	76.3	1,449	788	22.6	1,870	53.7	824	23.7	
Santa Cruz	16,354	3,100	1,937	62.5	1,904	856	27.6	1,081	34.9	1,163	37.5	
Total	145,406	31,579	23,226	73.5	15,088	6,822	21.6	16,404	51.9	8,353	26.5	
<b>ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION</b>												
Berkeley	46	46	18	39.1	13	4	8.7	14	30.4	28	60.9	
Davis	44	20	5	25	15	4	20	1	5	15	75	
Irvine	19	15	2	13.3	5	0	0	2	13.3	13	86.7	
Los Angeles	72	67	16	23.9	27	8	11.9	8	11.9	51	76.1	
Merced	181	55	13	23.6	38	5	9.1	8	14.5	42	76.4	
Riverside	33	26	6	23.1	3	0	0	6	23.1	20	76.9	
San Diego	4	1	1	100	0	0	0	1	100	0	0	
Santa Barbara	70	36	16	44.4	10	6	16.7	10	27.8	20	55.6	
Santa Cruz	233	81	32	39.5	56	14	17.3	18	22.2	49	60.5	
Total	702	347	109	31.4	167	41	11.8	68	19.6	238	68.6	
<b>ALL STUDENTS</b>												
Berkeley	7,442	3,065	2,782	90.8	628	339	11.1	2,443	79.7	283	9.2	
Davis	18,461	4,371	3,100	70.9	2,146	1,052	24.1	2,048	46.9	1,271	29.1	
Irvine	19,278	4,273	3,132	73.3	2,269	1,104	25.8	2,028	47.5	1,141	26.7	
Los Angeles	10,040	4,041	3,565	88.2	1,060	584	14.5	2,981	73.8	476	11.8	
Merced	19,901	1,328	472	35.5	975	282	21.2	190	14.3	856	64.5	
Riverside	19,644	4,444	2,273	51.1	3,390	1,159	26.1	1,114	25.1	2,171	48.9	
San Diego	15,620	3,705	3,368	90.9	1,368	679	18.3	2,689	72.6	337	9.1	
Santa Barbara	19,135	3,518	2,674	76.0	1,459	794	22.6	1,880	53.4	844	24.0	
Santa Cruz	16,587	3,181	1,969	61.9	1,960	870	27.3	1,099	34.5	1,212	38.1	
Total	146,108	31,926	23,335	73.1	15,255	6,863	21.5	16,472	51.6	8,591	26.9	

Source: University of California Office of the President, Office of Student Affairs.

\*Admission counts are duplicated. Except for the admission counts, data are for new enrolled freshmen.

**Table 2: Fulfillment of Entry-Level Writing Requirement (Subject A) for New Freshmen from California High Schools, Fall 2011**

Campus	Admitted*	Enrolled	Met Requirement		Took UC Exam	Passed UC Exam		Met Requirement Through Other Means		Did Not Meet Requirement		
			n	%		n	%	n	%	n	%	
<b>REGULAR (ELIGIBLE ADMIT)</b>												
Berkeley	7,194	2,903	2,651	91.3	524	296	10.2	2,355	81.1	252	8.7	
Davis	19,246	4,313	3,123	72.4	1,869	915	21.2	2,208	51.2	1,190	27.6	
Irvine	19,301	4,820	3,237	67.2	2,618	1,065	22.1	2,172	45.1	1,583	32.8	
Los Angeles	11,021	4,796	4,189	87.3	1,166	638	13.3	3,551	74	607	12.7	
Merced	10,462	1360	517	38	967	262	19.3	255	18.8	843	62	
Riverside	16,277	3,536	2,024	57.2	2,475	881	24.9	1143	32.3	1,512	42.8	
San Diego	14,725	2,932	2,626	89.6	1,111	508	17.3	2,118	72.2	306	10.4	
Santa Barbara	18,956	3,666	2,839	77.4	1,380	737	20.1	2,102	57.3	827	22.6	
Santa Cruz	17,382	3,397	2,147	63.2	1,980	896	26.4	1,251	36.8	1,250	36.8	
Total	134,564	31,723	23,353	73.6	14,090	6,198	19.5	17,155	54.1	8,370	26.4	
<b>ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION</b>												
Berkeley	59	58	21	36.2	20	6	10.3	15	25.9	37	63.8	
Davis	107	99	42	42.4	49	13	13.1	29	29.3	57	57.6	
Irvine	24	17	3	17.6	7	2	11.8	1	5.9	14	82.4	
Los Angeles	84	76	22	28.9	29	13	17.1	9	11.8	54	71.1	
Merced	250	75	24	32	54	13	17.3	11	14.7	51	68	
Riverside	105	56	12	21.4	25	3	5.4	9	16.1	44	78.6	
San Diego	18	3	3	100	1	0	0	3	100	0	0	
Santa Barbara	71	36	6	16.7	14	4	11.1	2	5.6	30	83.3	
Santa Cruz	222	75	44	58.7	51	21	28	23	30.7	31	41.3	
Total	940	495	177	35.8	250	75	15.2	102	20.6	318	64.2	
<b>ALL STUDENTS</b>	135504	32218	23530	73	14340	6273	19.5	17257	53.6	8688	27	
Berkeley	7,253	2,961	2,672	90.2	544	302	10.2	2,370	80.0	289	9.8	
Davis	19,353	4,412	3,165	71.7	1,918	928	21.0	2,237	50.7	1,247	28.3	
Irvine	19,325	4,837	3,240	67.0	2,625	1,067	22.1	2,173	44.9	1,597	33.0	
Los Angeles	11,105	4,872	4,211	86.4	1,195	651	13.4	3,560	73.1	661	13.6	
Merced	10,712	1,435	541	37.7	1,021	275	19.2	266	18.5	894	62.3	
Riverside	16,382	3,592	2,036	56.7	2,500	884	24.6	1,152	32.1	1,556	43.3	
San Diego	14,743	2,935	2,629	89.6	1,112	508	17.3	2,121	72.3	306	10.4	
Santa Barbara	19,027	3,702	2,845	76.9	1,394	741	20.0	2,104	56.8	857	23.1	
Santa Cruz	17,604	3,472	2,191	63.1	2,031	917	26.4	1,274	36.7	1,281	36.9	
Total	135,504	32,218	23,530	73.0	14,340	6,273	19.5	17,257	53.6	8,688	27.0	

Source: University of California Office of the President, Office of Student Affairs.

\*Admission counts are duplicated. Except for the admission counts, data are for new enrolled freshmen.